

Serial No. 09/763,913

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AUG 30 2006

REMARKS

Applicants cancel claims 1-6, 9-12, 20-22, 25, 28, and 30-37. Claims 7-8, 13-19, 23-24, 26-27, and 29 remain pending in the application. Applicants amend claims 7-8, 13, 23, and 29 to independent form. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of all certified copies of the priority documents from the International Bureau.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's finding that claims 7-8, 13-19, 23-24, 26-27, and 29 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants submit that the provided reasons for allowability only include the Examiner's non-exhaustive interpretations, which should, therefore, in no way limit the scope of the allowable claims. Applicants amend claims 7-8, 13, 23, and 29 to independent form. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner allow claims 7-8, 13-19, 23-24, 26-27, and 29.

The Examiner objected to claims 1, 2, and 20 for a number of apparent informalities. Applicants amend claims 7-8 and 13 to incorporate the features of claim 1 with the Examiner's suggested corrections. Applicants cancel claims 2 and 20. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objections.

Claims 1-6, 20, 25, 28, and 32-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,137,786 to Ariyoshi et al.; claims 11-12, and 21-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ariyoshi et al.; and claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ariyoshi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,151,919 to Dent. Applicants cancel the rejected claims.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider

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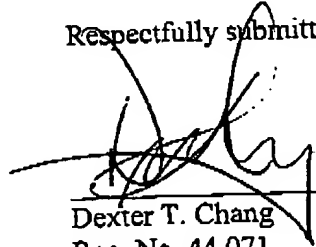
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this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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